

OUTGOING MESSAGE

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1	4	7	10																
2	5	8	11																
3	6	9	12																

ITEM NO: 2

DATE: 12 JAN 79

25X1 SUBJECT: INDONESIA/JAPAN--EMBASSY VIEWS ON PROTESTS

THE US EMBASSY IN JAKARTA BELIEVES THAT DEMONSTRATIONS BY
INDONESIAN STUDENTS DURING PRIME MINISTER TANAKA'S UPCOMING
VISIT MAY GRAB THE HEADLINES BUT THAT LOCAL AUTHORITIES SHOULD BE
ABLE TO HANDLE THEM. DEMONSTRATIONS IN JAKARTA AND BANDUNG DURING
THE PAST WEEK HAVE FOCUSED MOSTLY ON DOMESTIC ISSUES. ALTHOUGH
AT LEAST ONE GROUP OF PROTESTORS HAS BURNED AN EFFIGY OF TANAKA.
DESPITE THE OPTIMISTIC OUTLOOK FOR TANAKA'S VISIT, THE EMBASSY WARRNS
THAT THE STUDENTS' SELF-CONFIDENCE AND ASSESSMENT OF THEIR OWN
ABILITY TO AFFECT FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES ARE GROWING AND COULD, IN THE
LONG RUN, INVITE DRASTIC REPRESSIVE MEASURES.

State Department review completed

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